

President Invites East to Join West In 'Walk Together Toward Peace'

By Frank C. Porter

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President Johnson renewed his plea to the Communist world for international cooperation yesterday, inviting the East to join the West in "a walk together toward peace."

Mr. Johnson told a Catholic University graduation audience:

"On this Sunday morning, as you here bear witness with us, I would say to the people—and to the leaders—of the Communist countries, to the Soviet Union, to nations of Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, we extend to you our invitation: Come, now, let us reason together."

He laid heavy stress on overseas misunderstanding of United States motives and said that "men in other lands... have created and embraced myths of their own creation—the myths of American isolationism and imperialism, the myths of American materialism and militarism."

Mr. Johnson's Chicago speech last Thursday had been widely interpreted as bypassing Soviet leadership in appealing for a better understanding between the American and Soviet people. He also limited his peace overture to Eastern Europe and ignored Communist China, thereby touching off speculation that he was seeking to enlarge the breach between Peking and Moscow.

Widens Appeal

But the President significantly widened his appeal yesterday to include Communists leaders as well as the Red nations of Southeast Asia.

Mr. Johnson, who received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, was interrupted by applause 10 times during his short address. He quoted Thomas Jefferson, Presidents John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, George C. Marshall, Pope John XXIII, the prophet Isaiah and a popular verse from ancient Chaldea to build his theme of "an America morally aware, morally aroused."

"All through this century,

men in other lands—for reasons of their own—elected to discount moral duty as the motivation that moves America," Mr. Johnson said.

He then went on to attack what he called myths about United States' motivation.

Not Materialism

It was neither isolationism nor imperialism that sent Americans ashore at Normandy 21 years ago, he said.

It wasn't materialism, he continued, that led the United

States to share its dollars, crops and know-how with friend and foe alike to help rebuild the world after the war.

Nor was it militarism that prompted the country "to disarm her arms in good faith when victory was won and offer up the atom in good faith for control by all nations," Mr. Johnson said.

It was on this issue that the President referred to his predecessor, quoting Mr. Kennedy as saying that myth is, very often a greater enemy of truth than the deliberate lie and departing from his text to refer to him as "our late loved" President.

And he paraphrased Mr. Kennedy by concluding:

"For let us never forget, the longest journey begins with a single step."

(In urging ratification of the test ban treaty in August of 1963, President Kennedy had said that if the journey to peace "is one thousand miles, or even more, let history record that we, in this land, at this time, took the first step.")

Concern for Criticism

Throughout his speech, Mr. Johnson showed concern for recent criticism of the Nation's foreign policy.

"We have—as our forefathers had—a decent respect for the informed opinion of mankind," he said at one point, "but we of this generation also have an abiding commitment to preserve and perpetuate the enduring values of mankind."

The heavy stress the Presi-

dent laid on the word "informed" recalled recent suggestions by him and adviser McGeorge Bundy that some domestic criticism of American foreign policy, particularly in Viet-Nam, is uninformed.

His one reference to the University's graduating class came when he criticized those who think the younger generation is going to pot.

Quotes Ancient Verse

"All through history the doubt of men for the morality of their own generations has been exceeded only by their doubt for the morality of the next generation," the President said. "As long ago as ancient Chaldea—when history was just beginning—there was a popular verse, saying:

We are fallen upon evil times,
And the world has waxed
very old and wicked,
Politics are very corrupt,
The sons of men are not
so righteous
As their parents were.

"Whatever some may say," Mr. Johnson continued, "you of this class of '65 know that words such as these do not describe your America in these times. This is a new time in our land—a time young in spirit, a time of renewal, a time of resurgence for those forces which fashion a finer and fairer society."

Text of President's address. Page A8.

Crowd overflows Catholic U. gymnasium, where President Johnson speaks to 1462 graduates. Page A8.